decision that ten international airports in the country be managed by separate companies; if necessary, with foreign participation;

(b) what are the terms and conditions prescribed for the foreign participation; and

(c) the airport-wise estimated expenditure required to be incurred annually?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A decision has been taken to corporatise the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and the new airport to be constructed at Bangalore, Airports Authority of India (AAI) is in the process of selecting financial and legal consultants to advise on the modalities of corporatisation/restructuring. It is not possible to quantify the estimated expenditure at this stage.

Implementation of the Julka Committee recommendations

4. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air Traffic Control Staff has again threatened to go on strike to press their demands for further hikes in their wages;

(b) if so, their precise demands and Government's response thereto; and

(c) whether their main demand is for implementation of the Julka Committee Report; and how far the recommendations of the Committee have been implemented and how far the same still remain to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Air Traffic Controllers Guild had sent a notice to Airports Authority of India (AAI) on January, 27, 1999 and resorted to "go slow" from February 1, 1999.

A contingency plan was prepared by the AAI. A notification under ESMA (Essential Services Maintainence Act) has been issued by the National Capital Territory of Delhi on 16.2.99 declaring air traffic services as essential services. A notification has also been issued for conferring on certain Central Government officers the power of arrest, investigation and prosecution under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act. Air Traffic Controllers Guild has given an assurance to Delhi High Court on 19.2.99 that there shall be no disruption of flight schedules. AAI has also taken strict disciplinary action by dismissing six delinquent air traffic controllers.

At present flights are operating normally.

(b) The demands of Air Traffic Controllers Guild (ATCG) are 1. Pay parity with the Pilots 2. Duty hours to be reduced from 42 hours a week to 36 hours a week, 3. Payment of Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) Duty Allowance; 4. Creation of more posts 5. Increased Human Resource Development allowance 6. Training in neighbouring countries once in two years and in a western country once in a period of 4 years. 7. Payment of higher Conveyance Allowance to Air Traffic Controllers, 8. Payment of higher Children Education Allowance, 9. Free air passage to Air Traffic Controller on domestic sectors.

The officials of the Airports Authority of India and the representatives of the ATC Guild have been meeting from time to time to amicably resolve these issues.

(c) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Julka Committee relating to rating allowance, Flight Data Processing Allowance, On the job Training Allowance, Civil Aviation Training Centre Allowance have been accepted and implemented by AAI from November, 1997. The remaining recommendations of Julka Committee have not been accepted by AAI.

Disinvestment of shares of Air India and Indian Airlines

5. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to disinvest shares of Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) whether the shares will be given to foreign companies; and

(c) if so, the foreign companies to whom the shares will be sold?